

## Message Text

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TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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SENT ACTION CINCPACREP GUAM

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243389

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: GUIDANCE ON OUT-PROCESSING AND DEPARTURE OF  
REPATRIATE SHIP

FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR, ADMIRAL CARROLL AND SHEPLEY  
FROM TAFT

1. THERE ARE NUMEROUS OPERATIONAL ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED ON  
THE GROUND. YOUR DECISIONS SHOULD REFLECT THE FOLLOWING  
GUIDANCE. SHOULD QUESTIONS NOT COVERED BY THIS OR SUBSE-  
QUENT CABLES ARISE PLEASE REFER THEM IMMEDIATELY TO BOB  
KEELEY, TO WHOM I HAVE DELEGATED FULL COORDINATNG AUTHOR-  
ITY ON THE GROUND.

2. DEPARTURE DASH DASH AS STRESSED IN EARLIER MESSAGES,  
THE ACTUAL DEPARTURE OF THE THUONG TIN ONE SHOULD BE E-  
TREMELY LOW KEY AND WITH THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF USG  
EXPOSURE. THIS PRECLUDES ANY RPT ANY SORT OF DEPARTURE  
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CEREMONY OR THE PRESENCE OF ANY SENIOR US CIVILIAN OR

MILITARY PERSONNEL AS THE SHIP PREPARES TO DEPART. MOST PRESS PHOTOS WILL BE OF SHIP DEPARTING. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WE WANT TO INSURE THAT PHOTOS OF THE DEPARTURE NOT INCLUDE US MILITARY VESSELS OR AIRCRAFT. IF FEASIBLE SUCH CRAFT SHOULD BE MOVED OUT OF THE AREA. THE TUG PULLING THE VESSEL OUT OF THE HARBOR SHOULD BE A CIVILIAN TUG, IF POSSIBLE. THERE WILL BE OTHER STEPS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE AT DEPARTURE WHICH YOU SHOULD DEVISE ON THE SPOT. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS LOW PROFILE BE MAINTAINED TO INSURE MAXIMUM ACCEPTABILITY FOR THE VESSEL WHEN IT ARRIVES IN VIETNAM AND PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY IT MAY BE TURNED BACK.

3. COUNSELLING DASH DASH I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT ASAN REPATRIATES BE GIVEN A CHOICE AS TO WHETHER THEY WISH TO BOARD THE VESSEL. TO PRESERVE THIS ELEMENT OF CHOICE, IT IS VITAL THAT NO ADVANCE WORD OF THIS OPTION PROCEDURE LEAK TO THE REPATRIATES EITHER PRIOR TO OR DURING THE OUTPROCESSING. THE RED CROSS NEUTRAL OBSERVERS SHOULD BE MADE FULLY AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE COUNSELLING PROCESS. PUBLICLY, NO MENTION OF THE TERM QTE COUNSELLING UNQTE SHOULD BE MADE. DURING OUT PROCESSING EACH REPATRIATE WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A WAIVER. IF ASKED ABOUT THE FUNCTION OF THE VIETNAMESE-SPEAKING US PERSONNEL, YOU CAN REPLY THAT A WAIVER IS TO BE READ AND SIGNED BY EACH REPATRIATE AND THAT THESE US OFFICIALS WILL ENSURE DURING OUT PROCESSING THAT EACH REFUGEE UNDERSTANDS THE WAIVER BEFORE IT IS SIGNED. PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS PHASE OF OUT-PROCESSING WILL FOLLOW IN MORE DETAIL SEPTTEL.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR COUNSELLING DASH DASH SUGGEST THAT ONE OF SHEPLEY'S TEAM CONCENTRATE ON PLANNING NOW TO INSURE THAT ALL FAMILY MEMBERS ARE PRESENT AT THE SAME TIME DURING COUNSELLING. CROSS CHECKING OF FAMILY LISTS SHOULD BE DONE IN ADVANCE SO THAT FAMILIES ARE GROUPED TOGETHER WE MUST AVOID SEPARATE COUNSELLING SESSIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY, WHICH COULD LEAD TO CONFLICTING DECISIONS AS TO WHETHER TO DEPART ON THE VESSEL. EACH COUNSELLING SESSION SHOULD, THEREFORE, COMMENCE WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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QUESTION: QTE ARE ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AND RELATIVES FROM THIS CAMP PRESENT? UNQTE. FOR ANY FEMALE OR FAMILY GROUP CONSISTING OF ANY FEMALES THERE SHOULD BE A MATRON PRESENT DASH AT COUNSELLING AND DURING CUSTOMS AND CONTRABAND SEARCHES.

5. STAGING AREA NEAR SHIP DASH DASH IT MAY BE ADVISABLE TO MOVE REPATRIATES DESIRING TO LEAVE ON THE SHIP FROM

OUTPROCESSING TO A STAGING AREA NEAR THE VESSEL, BUT NOT DIRECTLY TO THE SHIP. IF IMPATIENCE BUILDS, PERHAPS IN THE EVENING, THOSE REFUGEES IN THE STAGING AREA COULD THEN BE ALLOWED TO BOARD THE SHIP. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD SERVE TO BREAK THE LONG WAIT AT THE STAGING AREA FOR THOSE ALREADY PROCESSED.

6. ORDER OF PROCESSING DASH TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE LEADERSHIP AND THE CREW SHOULD BE PROCESSED FIRST. COUNSELLING FOR THIS GROUP CAN BE CONFINED TO SIGNING OF THE WAIVER AND CONFIRMATION THAT THEY DESIRE TO LEAVE ON THE SHIP. THE CREW CAN BE ALLOWED TO BOARD THE VESSEL DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF WAITING IN THE STAGING AREA, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE FINAL PREPARATIONS. THE LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE INVITED TO ACCOMPANY THE CREW. THIS WOULD BE THE IDEAL ORDER OF PROCESSING, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS IS TOO RISKY IN TERMS OF RAISING THE LEADERSHIP'S SUSPICIONS.

7. BACKUP SUPPORT FOR COUNSELLORS DASH DASH IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE COUNSELLORS HAVE ACCESS TO SEVERAL EXPEDITERS WHO CAN HANDLE SPECIAL PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE DURING OUTPROCESSING. THE COUNSELLORS CAN NOT AFFORD THE TIME TO DEAL WITH ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS. ONE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE BACKUP SUPPORT WILL BE A DESK AT WHICH A US OFFICIAL CAN KEEP TRACK OF EACH REFUGEE BY NAME AND HIS IMMEDIATE LOCATION, I.E., STAGING AREA NEAR SHIP, TOKYO HOTEL, OR THE THINKING ROOM. AS SPECIAL COUNSELLING PROBLEMS BECOME MORE FREQUENT, SHEPLEY MAY WANT TO CONSIDER DETACHING HIMSELF FROM ROUTINE COUNSELLING TO HANDLE SPECIAL CASES, THUS FREEING THE FIVE REMAINING COUNSELLORS FOR NORMAL COUNSELLING.

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8. FBIS BROADCAST MONITORING REPORTS DASH COUNSELLORS SHOULD HAVE COPIES OF LATEST FBIS BROADCAST AS THEY ARE RELAYED TO YOU. COPIES SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE THINKING ROOM. WE WILL TRANSMIT RELEVANT BROADCAST TRANSCRIPTS TO YOU AS REQUIRED. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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